



JAN 01 1981

EARL HARRIS
PRESIDENT-MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
NEWARK, N. J. 07102



(201) 733-6423

December 12, 1980

Senator Wynona M. Lipman
State House
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Senator Lipman:

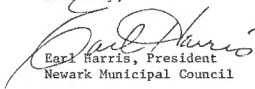
On August 25, 1980, I communicated with the members of the Legislature the serious crime situation in the city of Newark, and enclosed copies of articles from the Star Ledger, one of which labelled Newark "Dodge City East". At one point this summer, a local funeral home reported that thirty citizens, most victims of street crime, had passed through the facilities for burial in a three to four month period, most shot more than once.

In my August letter, I urged you and your colleagues in the Senate and Assembly, to vote for and actively support Senate Bill 1071, establishing a fixed minimum mandatory sentence for commission of a crime by anyone in possession of a firearm. In your wisdom, you Legislators saw fit to enact this important legislation, and you are to be commended for doing so.

Yesterday, in a message to the State Senate, Governor Byrne vetoed S-1071 claiming the bill usurps judicial discretion in sentencing. While I have the greatest respect for our Governor, I believe that there is an overwhelming need for legislation like S-1071. The State Government must take a firm stand against armed criminals, by putting them on notice that if they are going to carry guns and threaten the lives of their fellow humans, they will receive a strong response from our system of justice,

I urge every legislator to vote for and actively support an override of the Governor's veto. Let your constituents know how concerned you are about the violent crime which has become the day-to-day routine will not be tolerated in New Jersey.

Sincerely,


Earl Harris, President
Newark Municipal Council

*No copies enclosed
as indicated
Harris*